REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 16-20 and 22-42 are presently pending in this case. Claims 24-29 are withdrawn. Claims 16, 23, 30, and 33 are amended, Claim 21 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and new Claims 34-42 are added by the present amendment. As amended Claims 16, 23, 30, and 33 and new Claims 34-42 are supported by the original claims, no new matter is added.

In the outstanding Official Action, Claims 16-23 and 30-33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Morton (U.S. Patent No. 2,414,162) in view of Hurko et al. (U.S. Patent No. 3,674,983, hereinafter "Hurko").

The outstanding rejection is respectfully traversed.

Amended Claims 16, 30, and 33 recite in part "a ratio of width of the at least one bevel to a height of the at least one bevel is less than 23.3." Amended Claim 23 recites in part "a ratio of width of the raised portion to a height of the raised portion being less than 23.3." With regard to Claim 21, the outstanding Office Action conceded that Morton (and presumably Hurko) do not describe this feature, but concluded that "it would have been an obvious matter of design choice ... since such a modification would involve a mere change in the size of a component."[1] However, well settled case law holds that a particular parameter must first be recognized as a result-effective variable, i.e., a variable which achieves a recognized result, before the determination of the optimum or workable ranges of said variable might be characterized as routine experimentation. *In re Antonie*, 559 F.2d 618, 195 USPQ 6 (CCPA 1977). See MPEP §2144.05. In the present case, it is respectfully submitted that neither Morton nor Hurko identify that a ratio of width of a bevel to a height of a bevel is

[1]See the outstanding Office Action at page 5.

a result effective variable. In fact, neither describes measuring such a ratio, much less that such a ratio achieves a recognized result. Accordingly, the subject matter of amended Claims 16, 30, and 33 ***cannot*** be considered obvious in view of Morton and Hurko. Consequently, amended Claims 16, 30, and 33 (and all claims dependent therefrom) is patentable over Morton in view of Hurko.

Amended Claim 23 recites in part "a ratio of width of the raised portion to a height of the raised portion being less than 23.3." In a similar manner as noted above, Morton and Hurko do not identify a ratio of width of a raised portion to a height of a raised portion as a result effective variable. Accordingly, the subject matter of amended Claim 23 also cannot be considered obvious in view of Morton and Hurko. Consequently, amended Claim 23 is also patentable over Morton in view of Hurko.

New Claims 34-42 are supported at least by original Claims 16-23, 30, and 33. New Claims 34 and 41 recite in part "the lower surface includes pegs where facing the at least one bevel." New Claims 40 and 42 recite in part "the second surface includes pegs where facing the at least one raised portion." In contrast, Morton depicts a platform 11 that appears to have a flat surface beneath the portion cited by the outstanding Office Action as a "bevel" or a "raised portion," as asserted in the outstanding Office Action with respect to original Claim 20. As described in the present specification at paragraph 22 of the publication, pegs may be included beneath a bevel or raised portion to provide mechanical strength. It is respectfully submitted that neither Morton nor Hurko teaches or suggest this feature. Accordingly, new Claims 34, 40, 41, and 42 (and new Claims 35-39 dependent therefrom) are also patentable over Morton in view of Hurko.

Accordingly, the pending claims are believed to be in condition for formal allowance.

An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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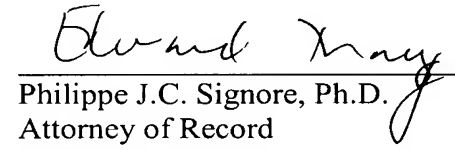

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